

Navigating This Document

- 1 **Background Text:** the main “body” of the plan provides information describing the conditions and trends of a particular planning topic.
- 2 **Definitions:** many terms or concepts are defined in the margin to provide more detail or clarity to the background text.
- 3 **Graphics:** photos, maps, and illustrations provide visuals for information discussed in the background text as well as highlighting unique aspects of the county.
- 4 **Glossary Terms:** words marked in green smallcaps are defined in the glossary.



Public Safety • Coconino County Arizona

43

community. The concept of survivable space goes one step further. It refers to property design practices that increase the likelihood of structures surviving a wildfire without active intervention by fire protection services.

The National Fire Protection Association, in conjunction with other agencies and organizations, has developed the Firewise Communities Program to promote development practices that decrease the effects of catastrophic wildland fires. The Firewise approach considers the terrain, vegetation, building materials, and architectural design of a site. Its goal is to reduce continuous fuel sources and the chance of structural ignition.

5 **Goal:** Reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires in the wildland/urban interface.

Policies:

1. Major developments and subdivisions in the wildland/urban interface must provide a defensible / fuel mitigation plan and property maintenance covenants incorporating the principles of defensible and survivable space. *(See Conservation Ordinance 8.2)*
2. For development in the wildland/urban interface, the use of firewise landscaping and construction techniques and materials is encouraged. *(See Conservation Ordinance 8.2)*
3. When considering development projects in or near the wildland/urban interface, the County encourages property owners and developers to consult with forest managers and land management agencies in developing fire mitigation plans to ensure compatibility.

Floods, Earthquakes, & Slopes

In addition to wildfires, other **NATURAL HAZARDS** of concern in Coconino County include floods, earthquakes, and landslides. Because the ground is **IMPERMEABLE** in many areas, floods can occur in response to excessive rainfall and snowmelt. The Coconino County Zoning Ordinance addresses floods in the **FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT OVERLAY ZONE**. However, although this overlay zone includes provisions for flood-hazard reduction, it does not prohibit or prevent development in flood-prone areas. It only requires that new construction does not encroach on the "floodway"—the main channel required for the discharge of a **100-YEAR FLOOD**. The **FLOODPLAIN** management regulations help ensure that property owners can obtain insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program and that the County can obtain disaster relief from the **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**.

Coconino County is at moderate risk for earthquakes, according to the **ARIZONA EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER** at Northern Arizona University. Northern geologic **FAULT SYSTEMS** comprise the **NORTHERN ARIZONA SEISMIC BELT**, including the Cataract Creek, Mesa Blum, and Bright Angel systems. The Cataract Creek system underlies the Flagstaff region and includes the Lake Mary fault. Damaging earthquakes occurred 1906, 1910, and 1912; minor quakes occur every year, on average. The chance of an earthquake of magnitude 6 or higher is about 50 percent in the next 30 years. The worst-case scenario for the Flagstaff community would be an earthquake of magnitude 7 or higher on the Cataract Creek fault system.¹⁶ Other areas of the county would experience less potential damage because they are less developed. For construction purposes, Coconino County is classified under the **UNIFORM BUILDING CODE (UBC)**¹⁷ as being in Seismic Zone 2b. The earthquake provisions of the code are intended to protect against major structural failure.




SEE ALSO: PAGE 8

Natural Environment: Environmentally Sensitive Lands

NATURAL HAZARDS

A significant threat to life and property produced by natural conditions or processes such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, severe soil erosion, slumping, wildfires, or floods.

100-YEAR FLOOD

A flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.






5 **Goal Statements:** a goal for each section is provided to define the relationship between the plan's background text and policies.

6 **Policies:** policy statements for each section provide direction for decision-making.

7 **Conservation Guide-line References:** many policies are followed by a reference to the guidelines found in the plan's Conservation Framework.

8 **See Also:** cross-referencing sidebars are provided as links to other, related areas within the plan.

9 **Partnership Logos:** the four symbols reflect *Our Vision for the County* (1. community values; 2. growth & development; 3. conservation & environmental quality; and 4. community partnerships).

